

and put it again before the people? Is that the purpose for which it is to be called together. The gentleman has amended the *sine die* clause, but still I should like to learn the reasons why this should be adopted.

Mr. ABBOTT. The resolution carries its own explanation upon its face. If the gentleman cannot understand it, he cannot understand the English language.

Mr. DENNIS. I confess there are a great many things the gentleman does that I cannot understand. I call for the yeas and nays on the resolution.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was—yeas 51; nays 18—as follows:

**Yeas**—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Jones, of Cecil, Keefer, Kennard, King, Larsh, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mulligan, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schley, Scott, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Valiant, Wickard, Wooden—51.

**Nays**—Messrs. Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Dennis, Dent, Duvall, Hodson, Hollyday, Horsey, Lee, Miller, Morgan, Parran, Smith, of Dorchester, Turner—18.

The resolution was accordingly adopted.

### THIRD READING OF REPORTS.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move that we proceed this morning to take up reports upon their third reading; and I first move to take up report No. 12, upon the elective franchise. I make this motion in order that they may go into the hands of the committee on revision.

Mr. PUGH. I second that motion because the committee on revision cannot get along until these reports are passed.

The motion was agreed to.

### ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

The convention accordingly proceeded to the third reading of the article on the elective franchise, and section first was read as follows:

Section 1. All elections shall be by ballot, and every white male citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, who shall have resided in the State one year next preceding the election, and six months in the city of Baltimore or in any county, shall be entitled to be registered as a legal voter; and such registration made in accordance with such provisions as the general assembly may prescribe, together with the muster rolls of all such soldiers as may be entitled to be registered in the State, and who

may be serving in the army of the United States, shall be held and taken as the only evidence of qualification to vote at any election hereafter, and the general assembly shall by law provide for taking the votes of soldiers serving in the army of the United States, in the field; and in case any county or city shall be so divided as to form portions of different electoral districts for the election of congressmen, senator, delegate, or other officer or officers, then to entitle a person to vote for such officer, he must have been a resident of that part of the county or city which shall form a part of the electoral district in which he offers to vote, for six months next preceding the election; but a person who shall not have acquired a residence in such county or city, entitling him to vote at any such election, shall be entitled to vote in the election district from which he removed, until he shall have acquired a residence in the part of the county or city to which he has removed.

Mr. HEBB. That word "not" should not be in the nineteenth line of this section. It should be "but a person who shall have acquired a residence." It was not in the old constitution.

Mr. SANDS. That very word "not" heals the ambiguity of the section in the old constitution.

Mr. HEBB. If it meant one thing in the old constitution without the word "not," it must mean a different thing here with it.

Mr. SANDS. It was a clerical error in the old constitution, and the committee inserted it for the very reason that it cleared up the ambiguity.

Mr. STIRLING. It strikes me upon reading it, precisely as it struck the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Hebb.) The clause now says that a man who has not acquired a residence shall be entitled to vote.

Mr. SANDS. Certainly; if he has not acquired it there, he shall be entitled to vote in the election district from which he removed.

Mr. STIRLING. The provision in the old constitution was this: that a man may go back to the election district in which he resided before his removal to another district, if he has not resided for six months in the district in which he now lives. But it never allowed a man to go from one county to another county to vote because he had not resided in the new county for six months.

Mr. SANDS. The gentleman utterly mistakes the purport of it. It is not to go from one county to another, but to go from one district to another.

Mr. STIRLING. The interpretation put upon it in the city of Baltimore is different. Without this provision, according to the opinion of Reverdy Johnson and other eminent lawyers, it required a six months residence in moving from ward to ward.

Mr. ABBOTT. I myself happen to have been a judge of elections for the last two years, and